News Messenger

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Blacksburg

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

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\$1.00 **USPS 016-490**

Blacksburg man wins lottery sitting in his car

Blacksburg's Glenn Miller discovered he had won \$777,777 in the Virginia Lottery - while sitting in his car.

It happened in the parking lot outside of Duck In Deli, located at 920 North Main St. in Blacksburg. Miller had just bought a Mega 777s ticket there and went out to his vehicle to scratch it.

"I was in disbelief," Miller said. "I just drove

Mega 777s is one of dozens of scratchers available from the Virginia Lottery. It features prizes ranging from \$10 up to \$777,777. This is the first top prize claimed in this game, which means two more remain unclaimed. The odds of winning the top prize in this game are one in 1,836,000. The odds of winning any prize are one in 3.45.

Miller, who is retired, said he intends to save his winnings.

Authorized by Virginia voters in a successful 1987 referendum, the Virginia Lottery generates more than \$2 million per day for Virginia's K-12 public schools. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, lottery customers helped generate more than \$765 million dollars in funding for public education.



Glenn Miller of Blacksburg won \$777,777 in the Virginia Lottery.

Conversation Hearts are Virginia's favorite Valentine's candy

Ben George ben@candystore.com

Valentine's Day is going to be interesting this year. Unlike last year pre-vaccine, an evening out with your sweetheart might be doable, depending on your location. Fingers crossed! Either way, candy is always a big part of celebrating Valentine's Day. Different states prefer different candy though.

For instance, in Virginia, the favorite candy is conversation hearts.

Virginia isn't alone as conversation hearts are also the favorite candy in Hawaii, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Illinois, Wisconsin, Idaho, Alaska, Florida, California, Montana, and South Carolina.

On the other hand, a heartshaped box of chocolates claimed the top spot in Tennessee, Connecticut, Michigan, Ohio, Georgia, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, Washington, Indiana, Nevada, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Washington, D..C.

M&Ms are the favorites in Iowa, Maryland, Arizona, Kansas, North Dakota, New Jersey, Oregon, and Vermont.

Hershey kisses, chocolate hearts, and Cupid corn emerged the winners in a few states.

Last year, COVID-19 struck Valentine's Day hard, according to the National Retail Federation.

Spending was down more than 20% from the previous year's alltime high. People were struggling and there was a once in a lifetime worldwide pandemic. It was understandable.

This year, things are picking back up. The NRF is expecting a near-record breaking year with consumer spending for Valentine's Day up nearly 10% and reaching \$23.9B.

The number of people buying candy is expected to be at a new record high with 56% of consumers planning to buy candy for Valentine's Day. Expected candy sales volume is also up and at \$2.2B would be runner up only to 2020 (\$2.4B).





PHOTO COURTESY ALLEGHANY COUNTY, PA / TWITTER VT professor of civil and environmental engineering Kevin Heaslip says a 2018 report asserts that Pennsylvania has more than double the national average of bridges in 'poor' condition.

Virginia Tech expert: "Average Pennsylvania bridge is 15 years older than national average"

Two Virginia Tech Heaslip, a professor of infrastructure and engicivil and environmental neering experts have disengineering at Virginia cussed Monday morn-Tech. "It will take time ing's bridge collapse in for the funding from the Pittsburgh as President bill to flow to states and Biden was set to visit be allocated for projects. Despite a nearly the area to discuss the nation's infrastructure. unprecedented funding "Despite the bipartiamount in the bill, there is need for additional san infrastructure bill's passage, there is still and ongoing funding great need for the mainto modernize and repair our critical transportatenance and upkeep of the country's roads and See **Bridge**, page 4 bridges," said Kevin

Christiansburg



NRCC Fiddle, Banjo, and Dance Club Jamboree set for Feb. 12

The music of Sassafras Bluegrass Band will be featured during New River Community College's Fiddle, Banjo and Dance Club Jamboree on Sat., Feb. 12, 2022.

The music will begin at 6 p.m. in 117 Edwards Hall at NRCC in Dublin. NRCC requires all individuals to wear masks indoors, and social distancing protocols will be observed.

Sassafras Bluegrass Band is based in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. The group is a bluegrass band that pays homage to the Bill

Monroe, and the Flatt & Scruggs era but also enjoys pushing the edge of progressive Newgrass music as well.

Their repertoire includes a range of musical styles including old time, country, folk, west-

See **Jamboree**, page 3



Sassafras Bluegrass Band will be the featured musicians at the NRCC Fiddle, Banjo, and Dance Club jamboree Feb. 12.



For more than 100 years, Virginia Cooperative Extension has worked in communities throughout the commonwealth to advance well-being. Now and into the future, Extension will continue to create a lasting impact, solve challenges, and help Virginia's communities.

Virginia Cooperative Extension's history is 'For Virginia'

Max Esterhuizen Contributing writer

To showcase Virginia Cooperative Extension's rich history of advancing the well-being of all Virginians since 1914, an interactive timeline was created to help visualize the many contributions of the 1862 and 1890 landgrant institutions.

Funded by an Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Sciences diversity grant, the timeline serves as an inclusive tool that community members and students alike can use to visualize the contributions of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University within a historical context.

The timeline was primarily organized by a team of undergraduate and graduate students in spring 2021 for the cross-institutional course at Vir-

See For Virginia, page 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Now through Feb. 14:

Braley & Thompson Blanket Drive for Virginia foster children

Braley & Thompson of Virginia's "Wrapped in Love" winter blanket drive is to benefit foster youth. Donations of new and gently used blankets are being accepted through Feb. 14 from 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Braley & Thompson Christiansburg, 207 West Main St., Suite 6B.

Now through Feb. 28:

MFRL Adult Winter Reading Program

The Montgomery Floyd Regional Library's adult winter reading program challenges patrons to read during January and February and keep track of their reading on the library's Beanstack site. Earn badges with each book read and activity completed. https://mfrl.beanstack.org/.

Wednesday, Feb. 2:

Radford Chamber Business over Breakfast

The Radford Chamber of Commerce is hosting Business over Breakfast at BT'S on Tyler Avenue at 8 a.m. The speaker is to be determined. Registration is required by clicking the "register here" link on the Chamber's website (www.radfordchamber.com).

Art Exhibition Opening Reception

Radford University's art museum is hosting the Super-Duper Juried Student Show at the Tyler Gallery (214 Tyler Ave). This show is open to all RU students and will be juried by artist Jane Lillian Vance. The opening reception is from 5 to 7 p.m. and is open to the public.

Water and Waste Committee Meeting

The Christiansburg Water and Waste Committee will meet at 6 p.m. at Town Hall, 100 East Main St., in the Administration Conference Room to discuss College Street stormwater alternatives, to hear a presentation on pending capital, and to discuss future committee topics.

Aquatic Advisory Board

The Aquatic Advisory Board meets the first Wednesday of every month at 4:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center, 595 N. Franklin St., Christiansburg.

Thursday, Feb. 3:

American Legion meeting American Legion Harvey-Howe-Carper Post 30 will meet at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post Home on 102 Watts St. in Radford. If Radford City Public Schools are closed on Thursday or Friday of this week due to weather, the

meeting is cancelled. For further information, call 250-2283 or 239-9864.

Friday, Feb. 4:

Bikeway Walkway Committee meeting

The Christiansburg Bikeway Walkway Committee meets the first Friday of every month at 7:30 a.m. in the administrative conference room of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main St.

Saturday, Feb. 5:

Crafternoon

At the Meadowbrook Library; 2 -3 p.m. A variety of snow- and Valentine-themed crafts for all ages. Registration is required. Contact Spahl@mfrl.org for more information. Register online or call (540) 268-1964.

Creative Writing Group

Meadowbrook Public Library; 10:30 a.m. Join in person or on Go-To-Meeting for support, feedback, and writing tips. Email cminnick@ mfrl.org or call 540-268-1964 for more information.A Go-To-Meeting account is not necessary to join.

Dyslexia: The Basics

Christiansburg Library; 2 p.m. This presentation will discuss the characteristics of dyslexia, the common myths, and various interventions. An extensive resource list will be provided.

Teen DND Blacksburg Library; 2 p.m. DnD for Teens.

Sunday, Feb. 6:

Chess Club

Blacksburg Library; 3 p.m. Ages 8 and up are welcome to come sharpen their chess skills. Supplies will be provided. All skill levels are welcome.

Tuesday, Feb. 8:

Sons of Confederate Veterans meeting

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Stuart Horse Artillery Camp 1784 will meet at 7 p.m. at Aly's Family Italian Restaurant, 3204 Riner Road. Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) are invited to this meeting. Member William Reed will continue his series on "Small Arms of the Confederacy." If Montgom-ery County Public Schools are closed on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week due to weather, the meeting is cancelled. For further information, call 540-320-4315 or 540-239-9864.

Thursday, Feb. 10:

River City Quilt Guild

The River City Quilt Guild meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at Grove United Methodist Church, 1020 Tyler Avenue,

Radford. All skill levels of quilters are welcome. For more information, call Anna Handy, 540-320-7791.

Saturday, Feb. 12:

Montgomery County 4-H hosting program for Cloverbuds

The Montgomery County 4-H Teens for a Better Tomorrow Club is hosting a program for Cloverbuds, ages 5 to 8 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m at the Mid-County Park Activity Center in Christiansburg (Frog Pond). The program is open to all children in that age range. The program will include arts and crafts, games, movies, making Valentine treats, and story time.

Wednesday, Feb. 16:

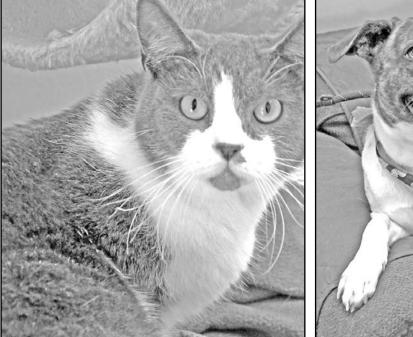
American Business Women's Association Luncheon Meeting

American Business Women's Association, NRV Express Chapter, February Luncheon Meeting will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Christiansburg-Blacksburg. 99 Bradley Drive, Christiansburg. The cost is \$14.25. Guest speaker Dana Hurt will explore the importance of friendships and the three required components to a meaningful relationship. RSVP by Feb. 14 by contacting Terri Welch at christiansburg@wineanddesign.com.

Be sure to 'Like' the News Messenger on Facebook.



Γ <u>ets of the week</u>





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Meet purrecious Forest! He came to the Animal Care Willow has been a resident at the Center since October and Adoption Center injured a few weeks ago. As a and she's ready to head home! She will gladly sit and result, one of his back legs needed to be removed. He stay for a yummy treat. She's a sweet, friendly gal who is doing very well since surgery and should be fully would need a future home where she is the only pet. recovered in a few days. Overall, he's a laid back cat who enjoys nuzzles from his favorite humans.

Warm Hearth Foundation receives donation from Fit Body Boot Camp

Blacksburg's Fit Body apartments at WHV, Boot Camp owners Mary Katherine Stahl and her husband Trevor gave their support to the Micah's Personal Care Program at Warm Hearth Village (WHV) this past holiday when the camp's members donated more than \$3,181 worth of highly demanded kitchen trash bags, paper towels, liquid dish detergent, all-purpose cleaner, and laundry pods.

Mary Katherine Stahl said, "We pick an organization each year to give back to, and I thought because of COVID, many seniors have not been able to spend time with their loved ones, so I wanted to do something extra for them this year. We were happy to jump on board with this Micah's program. We are passionate about giving back to the community that has been so good to us over the last five years. We appreciate the opportunity to help."

The Micah's Personal Care Program is a charitable fund of the Warm Hearth Foundation that benefits residents in the Trolinger and New River House

many of whom struggle to afford basic necessities. Warm Hearth provides subsidized housing to 153 residents. The Foundation's program helps when there is not enough money to purchase personal care items, food staples, fresh produce, and pet food and supplies as often little money is left after rent,

utilities, and medications are paid for.

Our Micah's programs have grown over the years thanks to the support of businesses and individuals like the Stahls and their locally run business, Blacksburg Fit Body Boot Camp," said Karen Nelson, Associate Director of Development for the Warm Hearth Foundation. "The true spirit of community and giving back exemplified by individuals and groups like these is humbling." Warm Hearth Village

is a nonprofit senior living community in Blacksburg that provides a full continuum of living options on its campus and in the home.



Fit Body Boot Camp's donation of \$3,181 worth of various items to Warm Hearth Foundation's Micah's Personal Care program.

Moss Arts Center features artists Namwon Choi and Shin-il Kim in two new solo exhibitions

The Moss Arts Center presents two solo exhibitions featuring the work of artists Namwon Choi and Shin-il Kim.

"The Shape of Distance" showcases Choi's monochromatic vivid landscapes, including a 16-foot mural print, while "In Between Five Colors" includes recent multimedia sculptures by Kim, select early stopmotion animations, and a new projection sculpture fabricated on-site at the Moss Arts Center.

The exhibition opened with a reception on Thursday, Jan. 27, and will be on view through Saturday, March 26. The center's galleries are open Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The galleries and all related events are free and are open to the public.

Namwon Choi: "The Shape of Distance"

Presented in the Ruth C. Horton Gallery, this exhibition consists of gouache paintings 12 on geometric shapedpanels and two painted sculptures anchored by a 16-foot mural print of Choi's tondo painting, "Shape of Distance (faceted circle)."

Trained in traditional Korean ink-wash painting, Choi's multi-perspectival, geometric, and finely-detailed depictions of scenic byways evoke

poetic ideas of time, transition, and states of in-betweenness.

Born in Korea and currently residing in Savannah, Ga., Choi's work has been exhibited at the Korean Culture Center in New York; the Korean Culture Center in Los Angeles; MOCA GA in Atlanta; B20 Wiregrass Biennial at the Wiregrass Museum in Dothan, Ala.; and was included in the United States' Art in Embassies program.

In 2020 she was one of three finalists selected for the most recent 1858 Prize Contemporary Southern Art Award at the Gibbes Museum in Charleston, S.C. She is currently a professor of foundation studies at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Shin-il Kim: "In Between Five Colors"

On display in the Miles C. Horton, Jr., Gallery, Sherwood Payne Quillen '71 Reception Gallery, and Francis T. Eck Exhibition Corridor, "In Between Five Colors" is an exhibition of recent multimedia sculptures and select early stop-motion animations by Kim. This exhibition includes a new projection sculpture, "Active Anesthesia—Ma Eum" (2022,) fabricated at the Moss Arts Center and viewable at night from Turner Street.

A resident of Seoul, South Korea, Kim was

nominated for the "Korea Artist Prize 2014" at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art. He has been exhibited at the Kim Chong Yung Museum in Korea, the Hiroshima MOCA in Japan, and the Queens Museum in New York. He participated in the Seville International Biennale, Spain; the Singapore Biennale 2006, Singapore; and the Gwangju Biennale 2004.

His work is in the per-

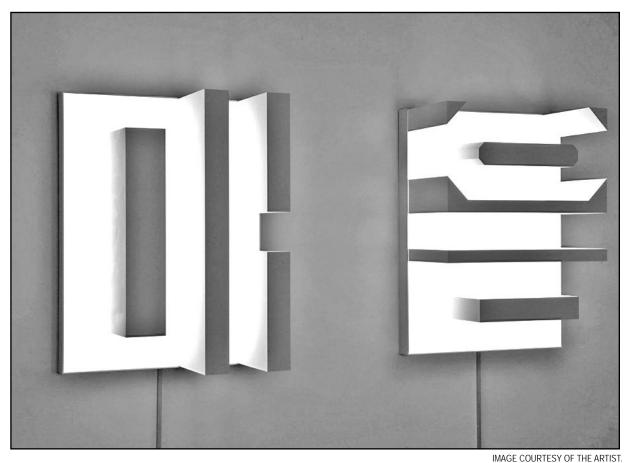
manent collections at the New Museum in New York; the Queens Museum in New York; the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Korea; the Seoul Museum of Art in Korea; and the Leeum Museum in Korea. Kim will work closely

with Virginia Tech students and faculty members, serving as a visiting artist in residence for two weeks in the university's Creativity and Innovation District Living-Learning Program residence hall.

The exhibitions are curated by Brian Holcombe, Moss Arts Center curator, and mark the beginning of Holcombe's programming at the cen-

The Moss Arts Center adheres to the guidelines of the Virginia Department of Health and Virginia Tech in its operations, including protocols for distancing, face coverings, and cleaning and sanitation. According to current university policy, all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to the Moss Arts Center are required to wear a mask.

Masks are required at all times for patrons, visitors, and staff regardless of vaccination status in all indoor spaces at the Moss Arts Center. More information about these requirements is available on the Moss Arts Center website.



Shin-il Kim's wall-mounted sculpture, "Mind," 2015. ABS, LED, each 39 x 31.5 x 17.7 inches.

Physician shares good fortune through medical school scholarship

first-hand the significant expense of attending medical school and has set out Medicine (VTCSOM).

Lewis Singer knows to make it less daunting for students at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of

As a retired ophthalmologist from the Roanoke region, Singer took an interest in the school early in its development and felt compelled to establish the Lewis J. Singer M.D. Scholarship, which is awarded to students who demonstrate financial need.

'Medical education is a

dents."

Singer observed that the school had quickly become a very competitive environment for its applicant population.

"I've watched the school become increasingly competitive," he said. "The education there is rigorous, but at the same time its small size allows for individualized attention. The opportunity for students to do high-caliber research adds another dimension to the curriculum.' Singer's medical education began at Chicago Medical School and included a pediatrics residency at Cornell University. Not long after becoming board certified in pediatrics, he decided to take a new direction and completed a second residency in ophthalmology at the University of Minnesota. He practiced in Roanoke and Lexington before retiring in

2010.

"I'm very grateful for the life I've had," he said. "I've had a successful career. I've enjoyed good health and good fortune, and this is my opportunity to give back. "Scholarships help strengthen the student, which helps strengthen the medical school, our community, and the ripple effect goes on and on, Singer said. "Having welltrained, sensitive physicians is so important, and I'm delighted to be a small part of that." For Simpson, the dream of becoming a doctor is well on its way, in part by the Singer scholarship. "I have been passionate about the intersection between science and humanity for many years," she said. "As a doctor, I hope to serve as a trusted leader of a patient's health care team and to make a difference.'



Abby Simpson (center), class of 2024, with Lew Singer and Dotsy Clifton at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. The Lewis J. Singer M.D. Scholarship "has made a big difference in my medical school journey and has allowed me to focus more on school and less on concerns about loans," Simpson said.

real reach for many families," Singer said. "I'm grateful to be able to make it more affordable."

The first beneficiary of Singer's generosity is Abby Simpson, a secondyear student at the school. Simpson studied neuroscience in college, then worked for three years as a research coordinator to help save money for medical school.

"This scholarship has made a big difference in my medical school journey and has allowed me to focus more on school and less on concerns about loans," Simpson said. "I am so appreciative to Dr. Singer for his generosity and commitment to the success of VTCSOM stu-

Jamboree from page 1

ern swing, and originals. Sassafras Bluegrass Band members have performed at a long list of festivals and venues including Merlefest, the Walnut Valley Festival, the Riverhawk Music Festival, Songs of the Mountain, King Pup Syndicated Radio, the Red White and Bluegrass Festival, the Albino Skunk Festival, the Plum Hollow Festival, the Chomp & Stomp Festival, the Mean Fiddler, the Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival, the Gettysburg Bluegrass Festival, the High Mountain Bluegrass Festival, Pickin' on the Plains, the Rogersville Bluegrass Festival, the Outer Banks Bluegrass Festival, and the Wickenburg Bluegrass Festival.

They have shared the stage or studio with Doc Watson, Jack Lawrence,

Charlie Waller, Graves, Jim Lauderdale, Ron- Bottling Co., Dublin; the nie Bowman, Tony Rice, Pulaski Patriot, Pulaski; Russell Moore, Jim Bu- SERVPRO, Montgomchanan, Allison Krauss, ery & Pulaski Counties; Tim O'Connor, Laurie Lewis, Warehouse, Radford. and Tony Furtado.

Members of the group are Wes Tuttle on mandolin, fiddle and vocals; Billy Gee on upright bass and vocals; Chris Bryant on banjo and vocals; and Randy Gambill on guitar and vocals.

Corporate sponsors of the jamborees include Anderson Audiology, Dublin; August Jewelers & Boutique, Inc., Radford; Castle Rock Insurance Agency, Pearisburg; Estes Auto & Truck Parts Inc., Pilot; First Community Bank, Pulaski; Food City; Gregory Seeding and Landscaping Company,

Josh Pulaski; Martin's Phar-John Cowan, macy, Pulaski; Pepsi Cola O'Brien, Mark and Southern Furniture

The doors open at 5 p.m. for the show. Admission is free; however, donations will be accepted to help offset the travel expenses for the musicians. The jamborees are typically held the second

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For more information

about the NRCC Fiddle, Banjo, and Dance Club, contact Tim Jones at (540) 674-3625 or visit www.nr.edu/fiddle.

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Opi<u>nion</u>

WalletHub: Virginia ranks as third-safest state during COVID

In its survey to find the safest states during COVID, the personal finance website WalletHub ranked Virginia as the third-safest state in the country.

As the U.S. continues its efforts to overcome the COV-ID-19 pandemic and the surging omicron variant, staying safe is one of Americans' top concerns, according to WalletHub. Safety is also essential for getting the economy back on track, as the lower COVID-19 transmission

and deaths are in a state, the fewer restrictions there will be and the more confidence people will have to shop in person.

While the country has mostly reopened, increasing the percentage of people who have been vaccinated and received booster doses is key to getting back to life as normal, the website says. The good news is that around 64% of the population has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as of Jan. 25.

The website notes that some states are already safer than others, though, based on how well they have kept the pandemic under control and how much they are vaccinating. In order to find out the safest states during the COVID-19 pandemic, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across five key metrics. The data set includes the rates of COVID-19 transmission, positive testing, hospitalizations and death, as well as the share of the eligible population getting vaccinated.

The rankings for Virginia of some of the key metrics that helped determine the commonwealth's ranking as among the safest states with 1 being the best and 25 being average are as follows:

Vaccination rate 14; positive testing rate 27; hospitalization rate 17; death rate 7; transmission rate 9.

According to WalletHub's sur-

vey, the 10 safest places during COVID are 1. Hawaii 2. California 3. Virginia 4. District of Columbia 5. Maine 6. Oregon 7. Florida 8. Vermont 9. New Hampshire 10. Maryland.

The 10 least safe states during COVID with the higher numbers being the least safe are 42. Kentucky 43. Louisiana 44. Arizona 45. Mississippi 46. West Virginia 47. Missouri 48. Tennessee 49. Ohio 50. Indiana 51. Oklahoma.

Virginia moms introduce bill requiring training in epilepsy death cases

A group of Virginia moms, backed by the Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia, has introduced House Bill 392, which requires that medical examiners receive training on how to investigate and identify sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP) during an au-

Upon such a finding, deaths are to be reported to the North American SUDEP Registry, a global leader for epilepsy research.

"Virginia needs this bill because despite epilepsy affecting 84,800 people in the state, SUDEP isn't well understood in the medical community," said Jeffrey Guzman, the Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia Advocacy Director. "As a result SUDEP is underreported. It's critical that SUDEP deaths

are accurately recorded because death rates affect research funding. The same research that could prevent SUDEP in the future.'

Epilepsy is a disorder of the brain causing recurrent seizures. Onethird of those with epilepsy have drug-resistant epilepsy, meaning medication cannot control their seizures. One in 150 people with uncontrolled

seizures die of SUDEP.

One such victim was 21-year-old Jonathan Alan Gibbs Bush. "He would always say, 'I'd rather have cancer than epilepsy, because at least people know what cancer is," said Jonathan's mother, Evelyn Gibbs.

Even in the 66 percent living with controlled seizures, SUDEP is still a risk as it kills 1 in 1,000 of everyone with epi-

"His physician lepsy. never told us SUDEP was possible," said Wendy Parker, whose 31-year-old son Todd died after living seizure-free for years. "Had we known the medication could fail and that there were triggers to look for, perhaps we could have prevented it. But now it's too late.".

Similar legislation has been enacted in the states of Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and North Carolina. Suzann Bischoff, Executive Director of the Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia, said, "We are providing this training and other resources to medical examiners because it's important that any barriers to the very important research be removed and that families of victims get needed closure."

Submit letters

to the editor to

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The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

WalletHub: Virginia is 10th best state for singles

With Valentine's Day around the corner and the average date costing close to \$100, the personal-finance website WalletHub Monday released its report on 2022's best and worst states for singles and determined that Virginia is the 10th best state in the country for singles.

As WalletHub points out, besides looks, personality, interests and employment status, location can influence the odds of finding a romantic partner. Everyone has different priorities when searching for love, but certain places simply make dating easier than others. That's especially true during the COVID-19 pandemic as

Bridge from page 1

tion infrastructure." Heaslip's areas of expertise include transportation infrastructure and operations, transportation cybersecurity, urban transportation planning, and transportation automation and electrification.

Heaslip and Roberto Leon, the of bridges, reinforced concrete D.H. Burrows Professor of Construction Engineering in The Charles Edward Via, Jr., Depart- as experience investigating the

certain states are more impacted than others, though virtual dates have risen in popularity as a safer alternative to going out in person.

To help unattached Americans improve their chances of finding love, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 30 key indicators of dating friendliness. The data set ranges from the share of single adults to online-dating opportunities to restaurants per capita.

Virginia's rankings among some of the metrics with 1 being the best and 25 average were

gender balance of singles, 29; online dating opportunities, 17, mobile dating opportunities 11, median annual household income

ment of Civil and Environmen-

tal Engineering at Virginia Tech,

agree that the bridge in ques-

tion appears to have been listed

in poor condition prior to the collapse. Leon's areas of exper-

tise include forensic structural

engineering, seismic behavior

structures, and behavior and de-

sign of building materials, as well

adjusted for cost of living, 1, restaurants per capita, 10, movie theaters per capita, 24, crime rate 8, and percentage of residents 12+ who are fully vaccinated, 10. According to WalletHub, the

top 10 states for singles are 1) California 2) New York 3) Florida 4) Texas 5) Pennsylvania 6) Illinois 7) Massachusetts 8) New Jersey 9) Wisconsin and 10) Virginia.

The website also found that the 10 worst states for singles are 42) Ida-41) South Carolina ho 43) Alaska 44) Alabama 45) Kentucky 46) Mississippi 47) Wyoming 48) North Dakota 49) Arkansas and 50) West Virginia.

causes of structural collapses.

Heaslip points to a 2018 report from the American Society of Civil Engineers that notes, "On Civil Engineers that notes, average, Pennsylvania's bridges are 15 years older than the national average and continue to be in need of repair and modernization. . . . Pennsylvania has more

than double the national average

of bridges rated in 'poor' condi-

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For Virginia from page 1

ginia Tech and Virginia Virginia State University.

tant tool that documents ties thrive," said Karen

Cooperative Extension's rich history "This is an impor- of helping communi-Vines, an assistant professor in the Virginia Tech Department of Agricultural Leadership and Education who teaches a course titled "Introduction to Cooperative Extension." "By including students in this project, they were able to learn the history of how the land-grant universities in the state are ingrained in every community across the commonwealth," Vines said.

Jacob Hodges, a senior at the time from Catawba, Va., and Jama Coartney, a graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Agricultural Leadership and Education, led the team. Laura Dainton, the 2021 Extension intern, assisted and provided the ADA compliant version. "I was able to see and

connect the overarching missions and goals

of Virginia's two landgrant institutions, which wasn't something that I was aware of before working on this project," Hodges said.

tion."

Connections drove the creation of the timeline. Connections between Extension's work in natural resources and connections farming, between communities and youth development, and connections between Virginia Tech and Virginia State University.

Virginia Cooperative Extension, which is made up of faculty and staff from Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, is made up of experts in the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Natural Resources and Environment, the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Virginia State University College of Agriculture..

"Relationships are the foundation of what Extension is – both internal and external," Vines said. "Extension would not be the organization that it is today without these relationships that we cherish."

Extension has always brought cutting-edge science and research to people in the accessible medium of the day, whether through pamphlets, newsletters, field visits, or virtual interactions. Finding the right tool to showcase this history was a challenge, Coartney said.

Using her background in digital humanities, Coartney knew of tools that could generate interactive timelines.

'This tool had a lot of benefits for our goal for students and community members to visually see the impact of Extension throughout its history," Coartney said. "This visual timeline makes our history easily accessible."

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

BITUARIES Howard, Harvey Emory

Harvey Emory Howard (Emory), 79, of Blacksburg, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Thursday night, Jan. 27, 2022.

He is singing and dancing with his loving mother, Dorothy Howard, and his father, Harvey Howard. He was also preceded in death by his brother, David Howard, and a grandson Charles "Patrick" Underwood.

He leaves behind the mother of his children, Lois Howard; his daughters Angelia (Eddie) Underwood, Melissa Howard, Cindy (Duwayne) Smith-Janney, and Sharon (Jimmy) Brunner; his son and best friend; Dewayne Howard; his 11 grandchildren: Ricky (Emily) Howell, Matthew (Cary) Smith, Scottie Howell, Samantha (Seth) Underwood, Taylor (Trent) Gordon, Kimberly (Cody) Mc-Neil, Morgan (Ben) Huber, Meredith Janney (Cody Brown), Braiden (Jessica) Underwood, Brooke and Madison Brunner; as well as his 18 great-grandchildren: Peyton, Colt, Ty, and Kyle Howell; West-



en, Braelyn, and Forest Smith; Colby, Collin, Cohen, and Cambreigh Howell; Sawyer, Caroline and Jolee Gordon; Holden and Kason McNeil; and Crosby and Charleigh Huber; sisters Darlene Shafer and Carolyn (Donnie) Wingo, a brother, Delmer (Ellen) Howard; and his most beloved dog, Butterbean.

Emory worked at Yokohama for 31 years. After he retired he could always be found in his

garage, at an auction, or at the race track with a chicken drumstick in his hands watching his son race.

He was a lover of all dogs, auctions, getting aces in Rummy, a cold bottle of Coke, racing, watching television (on maximum volume), and yellow tomatoes.

The funeral service will be held at McCoy Funeral Home on Friday Feb. 4, 2022. The family will receive friends starting at 1 p.m. with the service to follow at 2 p.m. Pastor Peter Anderson will be officiating. Graveside service to follow at Westview Cemetery.

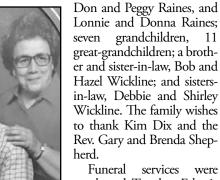
Raines, Mildred (Mickey) Wickline

Mildred (Mickey) Wickline Raines, 85, of Shawsville, died Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022. She was born in Monroe

County, W.Va., on Feb. 2, 1936, to the late Ernest R. and Elizabeth Booth Wickline.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Junior Raines; a son, Johnnie Lee Raines; a granddaughter, Chelsea Nicole Raines; and two brothers, Buddy Wickline and Danny Wickline.

She is survived by her daughter and sonin-law, Connie and Danny Lowe; sons and daughters-in-law, Ronnie and Becky Raines,



Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022, at 1 p.m. in the Mc-

Coy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Gary Shepherd officiating. Interment followed in the Peterstown Cemetery, Peterstown, W.Va.

Martin, Bobby Allen

Bobby Allen Martin, 73, of Christiansburg, heard his Lord and Savior call him home on Jan. 28, 2022. He was born in Pilot on Oct. 17, 1948, to the late Albert and Beulah Martin. In addition to his parents, Bobby was preceded in death by his two sons, Dave Allen Martin and Michael Chris Martin; and a sister, Shirley Shaver.

Left to carry on his mem-

ory is his loving wife and best friend of 50 years, Mary Jane Martin; his daughter



of Radford; a sister, Nita Kingrea of Christiansburg,; a brother-in-law and sisterin-law, Johnny and June Cox of Blacksburg; several nieces and nephews; and a special companion, Oscar.

Bobby worked hard all his life, but it is what he enjoyed. He could fix anything and find water in the ground with a stick.

Funeral services will be

Killough, Larry Neil

Larry Neil Killough, 89, of Claytor Lake, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022

He was raised in Jackson, Tenn., the son of the late John F. Killough, Sr., and Quilla Katherine Wegmann Killough.

Larry was the Peat Marwick professor of accounting at Virginia Tech where he taught for 45 years and was head of the account-

ing department for nine years. He also served as faculty representative for athletics for 19 years and wrote many articles and books. He was a member of Central United Methodist Church in Radford and served in the U. S. Army during the Korean Conflict.

Survivors include his loving wife of 69



years, Irene K. Killough; a son and daughter-in-law, Gregory Neil and Catherine Killough; a daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and William Demere; grandchildren Paul Demere, Desirae Twilla and husband Kevin, William Demere and wife Nargess, Brittany Killough, Andrea DeLeon, Abigail Wade and husband Alex, and Eliza Mrvan and husband

Brandon; two great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends. He will be greatly missed by his family.

A celebration of Larry's life will be held in the spring.

The Killough family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

Manns-Taylor, Natalie Monique

God dispatched his angels to usher Natalie through the gates of Heaven at the age of 62 on Jan. 26, 2022, at Novant Medical facility in Kernersville, N.C., surrounded by her family. She was born on July 14, 1959, in Columbus, Ohio.

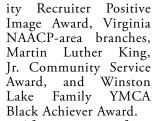
Natalie was a lifelong member of First Missionary Baptist Church

and attended Mount Zion Baptist Church during her time in North Carolina.

Natalie was one who had high expectations for herself from a very young age. She attended Pulaski County High School and was active in several community activities. She joined the softball team and the Girl Scouts, as well as 4-H, an Agriculture-Oriented Club for Youth. She was also active in church where she sang in the choir and taught Sunday School.

She started working her first parttime job at the age of 16, at McDonalds. She then started her career at Food Lion while she attended college at Radford University, graduating in 1982. Starting as a cashier Natalie climbed the corporate ladder. She created the diversity department at Food Lion and became vice president of diversity in the corporate office where she held the title until her retirement from the corporate world in 2004.

While at Food Lion, she was active in the National Association of Colored conducted today, Wednes- People (NAACP) and was a member day, Feb. 2, 2022, at 11 a.m. in the Faith of the board of trustees. She was also Missionary Baptist Church with the Rev. the secretary of the Board of Directors of the Triangle Urban League as well as a member of the National Association of Female Executives, the Rainbow Coalition, and Minority Women in Business. She played a major role in Food Lion's support of the CIAA where she represented Food Lion with live TV interviews. She was the face of Food Lion in several commercials. Throughout her career, Natalie received the following awards: Minor-



After retiring from Food Lion, she decided to pursue her own dream. With the support of her husband, Tim, and her son Ryan, she

started Capture Communications Resource Group, a video production and executive coaching company.

In life she became a supporter of her son, her nieces, and her nephews. She loved to shop and have good times with what she called her "Circle" and "Sister Cousins."

Natalie was preceded in death by her mother, Betty M. Casey; and her maternal grandparents, James and Hattie Manns.

She leaves to cherish in her memory, her devoted husband of 37 years, Timothy Taylor; her most prized possession, her son, Ryan (Nyesha Lands) of Greensboro, N.C.; siblings Ava Manns Pope of Greensboro, N.C. and Karen Casey of Lynchburg, Va.; a niece, Aaliyah Webb; a nephew, Andrewus Casey of Lynchburg, Va.; aunts and uncles Flossie Brown, Charles (Caroline), and John Manns, all of New River, Va.; and a special friend, Marchelle Flynn of Dublin, Va. Also left to rejoice in her memories of life are a host of cousins and friends.

The family will receive friends from 1 until 2 p.m. today, Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022, at the First Missionary Baptist Church in New River, Va. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. with Pastor Timothy Simmons officiating. Interment will follow in Sunrise Burial Park in Radford. To keep everyone safe, the family requests that all attendees wear a mask. The Manns-Taylor family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.

and son-in-law, Katonya Martin Bishop (Brian) of Christiansburg; grandchildren Dallas Martin, Drew King (Allie), Spencer Martin, Ariel Martin, Callie Williams, and Cassie Bishop; a great-granddaughter, Ella Martin; a brother, Billy Martin (Dorothy)

Mike Vest and the Rev. Neal Turner officiating. Interment will follow in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Christiansburg. The family received friends Tuesday evening at McCoy Funeral Home 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg.

Reynolds, Gary Alan

Gary Alan Reynolds, 68, passed away at his home in Radford on Friday, Jan. 28, 2022

He was a U. S. Army veteran and a general contractor.

Gary loved his family, his country and his Harley. He was preceded in death by his mother, Sammie Reynolds Dalton; and a brother, Rocky Reynolds.

Survivors include his wife, Karen

Reynolds; a daughter, Crystal Reynolds; grandchildren Shilah and Curren; his father, Sidney Reynolds; sisters Debbie Taylor (Jimbo), Deanie Hall, and Janet England; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be private. The Reynolds family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford. www.mullinsfuneralhome.com

Thompson, Mary Jane

Mary Jane Thompson, 73, of Blacksburg, died Friday, Jan. 28, 2022.

She was born in Lexington, Va., on Dec. 5, 1948, to the late Homer and Thelma Thompson.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Wayne Thompson, and a sister, Carol Thompson.

She graduated from Natural Bridge High School and attended Virginia

Commonwealth University. She moved to Blacksburg in 1978 and was employed at Virginia Tech in Food Science. She was a recipient of one of the 1996 President's Awards for Excellence and recipient of the Alpha Gamma Chapter-Epsilon Sigma Phi award for outstanding secretary.

She served on the FST Department Head Search Committee and was a member of Centennial Christian Church. She worked for Larry Linkous Auctioneers for 20-plus years.

She is survived by her brothers and sisters-in-law, Tommy Thompson (Loretta), Jimmy Thompson (Shelia), and



Bobby Thompson (Susan); nieces Debbie Thompson Broughman and family, Jennifer Thompson Austin and family, Dawn Faulkner McNamara (Brian), Krissy Thompson, and Afton Thompson; nephews William Thompson and family, Lee Faulkner and family, Brent Faulkner and family, Tom Thompson and family, and Logan Thompson. The family would like

to express a special thanks to neighbors, friends, and church family, and to Medi Home Health and Hospice.

Funeral Services will be conducted today, Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022, at 11 a.m. in the McCoy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Steve Allen officiating. Interment will follow in the Centennial Christian Church Cemetery, McCoy.

In lieu of flowers please donate to Centennial Christian Church or to Cancer Research Organization. The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m. prior to the service at McCoy Funeral Home 150 Country Club Dr. SW, Blacksburg.

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afternoon/evening shift work inserting, labeling and bundling newspapers for delivery. No experience necessary. Hours may vary. Will train. \$7.50 per hour. Contact Lvnn Hurst, General Manager, Salem-Times Register (540)389-9355 or email lhurst@ourvalley.org

Calling All Singers, Musicians, & Actors!!!

A community theater group based in Roanoke, VA is looking for a group of fun-loving, dedicated volunteers to perform an original show written and directed by Al Nierwinski. The show consists of 22 songs and many hilarious lines. For more information call Al Nierwinski @ 540-761-8392.

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NOTICE OF **BOARD OF** EQUALIZATION MEETING

TO: CITY OF SALEM REAL ESTATE OWNERS

The Board of Equalization for Real Estate Assessments in the City of Salem will meet on Monday, April 11th, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Salem Civic Center located at 1001 Roanoke Blvd, Salem, Virginia.

The Board will continue its meeting from time to time thereafter, by adjournments, at and for such time or times, at the same place or such other place or places, as may be designed and deemed necessary by the

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VA CODE §§ 1-211 1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104 Case No. CL21001989 Montgomery County Circuit Court 55 East Main Street, Suite

> Estate Of Ernestine B. Frith Commonwealth of Virginia Mark B. Frith

1, Christiansburg, VA 24073

Commonwealth of Virginia The object of this suit is to: Sale of Ernestine Burton Frith's Real Property It is ORDERED that Dennis L. Frith appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before March 14, 2022.

January 13, 2022 Judge K. Mike Fleenor, Jr.



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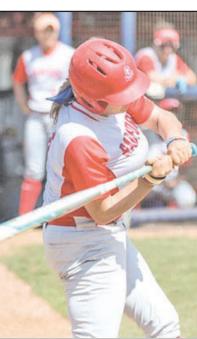
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Montgomery Sports





The Radford University softball team has announced the additions of Autumn Bishop (left) and Marissa Yow to the coaching staff.

RU softball names two assistant coaches

Radford University softball has named Autumn Bishop and Marissa Yow as assistant coaches for the quickly approaching 2022 season.

Bishop joins the Highlanders after a successful four-year career playing for Liberty. From 2017 to 2020, Bishop was the Flames' starting first baseman while amassing a large collection of awards. She is a four-time first-team all-conference selection, a three-time VaSID all-state first-team selection, and a 2017 NFCA All-Mid-Atlantic region first-team member.

During the 2017 and 2018 seasons when Liberty was still a part of the Big South, Bishop was named a member of the 2017 all-freshman team and the 2018 Tournament MVP. Bishop finished her career at Liberty with the program record for doubles, walks, sacrifice flies, and putouts while also holding the single-season records for doubles and putouts. She ranks 10th all-time in Division I with 74 career doubles.

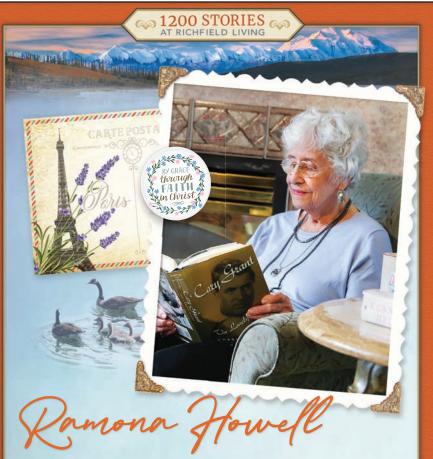
Yow returns to the Highlanders as a coach after spending three seasons

playing for Radford between 2016 and 2018. She graduated from Radford in 2019 with a degree in psychology and a minor in exercise science.

During her freshman year as a Highlander, Yow was one of four Highlanders, and the lone freshman, to start in all 61 games. At the start of the season, she was the team's catcher before switching to third base. In 2016 Yow ranked fifth on the team with 26 RBIs and sixth with 42 hits.

As a redshirt sophomore in 2018, she appeared in 49 games and started in 43 as the designated player. Yow batted .240 while tallying six doubles and two home runs. In her season debut, she had three RBIs and a home run after missing the 2017 season due to injury.

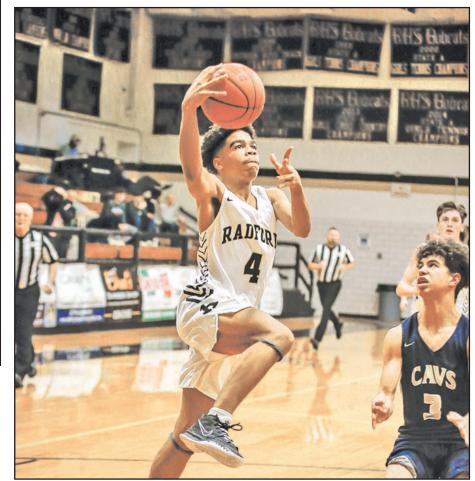
The 2022 softball season is almost here as the Highlanders are set to face Binghamton on Feb. 11 in the season opener at the Bash in the Boro hosted by Georgia Southern. Radford will also play East Tennessee State University and Georgia Southern during the opening weekend.



Radford boys down Carroll



Elijah Kelly gets fouled while driving to the basket in the Bobcats' 62-38 defeat of Carroll County this past week. Gavin Cormany led Radford with 13 points while Kelly finished with 12 points in the contest.



Ramona H. has lived in Joseph C. Thomas Assisted Living for about three years after a stay in Short Term Rehab following emergency surgery. She liked the care, playing games, socializing, and watching the geese and rabbits outside.

She wanted to become a hot shot secretary so she studied those skills in college. But she met a young man who joined the Air Force and got orders to go to Alaska. Ramona and Clell were married in one day by a pastor they found in the phonebook. They had four children, Richard, Rita, Frank, and Raymond. The family was living in France when Clell had a cerebral aneurism while driving. Although they were both injured, her husband was transferred to Germany for a long convalescence. He had large memory loss so they returned to Virginia. Ramona kept children to support the family. They were married 54 years before he passed in 2008.



I have been through a lot, my church and Christian women helped me. The Lord is there, so I do not need to be anxious.

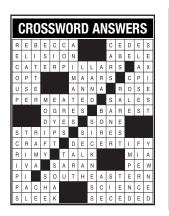
Ramona Howell

Radford's Parker Prioleau scores on a layup against Carroll County. With the win, Radford moved to 9-2 overall and 4-0 in Three Rivers District play.



PHOTOS BY BRYANT ALTIZER

Max Kanipe scores in the paint in the second half for Radford as he finished with six points.



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